

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 1-9 were pending in this application. By this paper, claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8 have been canceled. Claims 3, 4 and 6 are amended herein. Claims 10 and 11 have been added which depend from claim 4 and 6 respectively. No new matter is introduced by these amendments. Entry is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections/Objections

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,741,404 to Ue et al. ("Ue"). [Office Action at p. 2-3].

Applicant has canceled claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8 and respectfully submits that the stated rejections be withdrawn as being overcome or otherwise rendered moot.

Claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 3. For at least the reasons for allowing claim 3, discussed below, Applicant respectfully submits that the stated rejection be withdrawn as being overcome or otherwise rendered moot.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action objected to claims 3, 4 and 6 as being depended on a rejected base claim but being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. [Office Action at p. 3-4].

Accordingly, as suggested by the Office Action, Applicant has rewritten claims 3, 4 and 6 and respectfully submits that, for at least these reasons, Applicant's amended claims 3, 4 and 6 are allowable.

Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons for allowing independent claim 3, 4 and 6, claim 9 and new claims 10 and 11 depending therefrom (respectively) are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

Applicants have not specifically addressed the rejections of the dependent claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims, from which they depend, are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Accordingly, the dependent claims also are in condition for allowance. Applicants, however, reserve the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims in the future as appropriate.

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing rejections be withdrawn as being overcome or otherwise rendered moot.

CONCLUSION

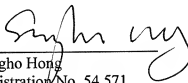
An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1232-5231.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: July 23, 2007

By:


Sung Ho Hong
Registration No. 54,571

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101
(212) 415-8700 Telephone
(212) 415-8701 Facsimile

CONCLUSION

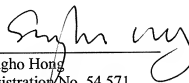
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